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Your Reference: 09/957,456
Our Reference: 9611-26

January 22, 2003

By Facsimile

The Commissioner of Patents
& Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231
U.S.A.

Dear Sir:

Re: RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION
United States Patent Application No. 09/957,456
Entitled: Assay For Identifying Modulators of Chondrogeneses
Inventors: Tully Michael Underhill and Andrea Dawn Weston
Filing Date: September 21, 2001
Examiner: William O. Sandals
Art Unit: 1636

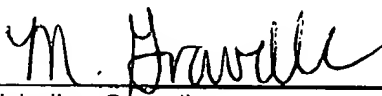
The present letter is filed in response to the office action of December 24, 2002.

Applicant provisionally elects Group I, the claims readable thereon as being claims 1-13. This is without prejudice to Applicant filing divisional applications to the Groups II-VI inventions.

In view of the foregoing comments and amendments, we respectfully submit that the application is in order for allowance and early indication of that effect is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner deem it beneficial to discuss the application in greater detail, he is kindly requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at (416) 364-7311 at his convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

Tully Michael Underhill et al.


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GROUP 1600

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TO: U.S. Patent & Trademark Office

ATTN: William O. Sandals - Examiner, Art Unit No. 1636

FAX NO.: 703-308-4242 or 703-305-3014 TEL. NO.: 703-305-1982

RE: Serial No. 09/957,456 Filed - Sept. 21, 2001 Our File No.: 9611-26


FROM: Micheline Gravelle, Registration No. 40,261

DATE: January 22, 2003 PAGES: 2
(Including cover sheet)

If transmission is interrupted or of poor quality, please notify us immediately by calling (416) 364-7311 and asking for Jenny Lo at extension 6277.

CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that the attached Response is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office on the date shown below.


Micheline Gravelle
Registration No. 40,261

January 22, 2003
Date

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